

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7458  
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC  
AMEMBASSY PARIS  
AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 11228

PARIS FOR RD PICINI, ROME FOR SAIC ANGIOLETTI

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR

SUBJECT: INTERNATIONAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, ROME  
ITALY: PROBABLE GREEK REQUEST

1. GREEK NARCOTIC POLICE OFFICERS ANTONIS ANTONIOU AND  
NICOLAS RAPTIS, WHO WILL BE ATTENDING THE ROME INTERNATIONAL  
ALUMNI CONFERENCE, PLAN TO USE THE OPPORTUNITY TO LOBBY FOR  
THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A FULL-TIME DEA OFFICE AT ATHENS, GREECE.

2. RAPTIS AND ANTONIOU, WHO ARE WORKING-LEVEL SUPERVISORS  
WITHOUT ANY POLICY-MAKING AUTHORITY, HAVE DESCRIBED TO US THE  
REASONS THEY WISH TO SEE A FULL-TIME DEA PRESENCE AT ATHENS.  
THEIR VIEWS MAY BE SUMMARIZED AS FOLLOWS:

-- THEY BELIEVE THAT INTERPOL IS BUREAUCRATIC, SLUGGISH AND  
UNRESPONSIVE TO THEIR NEEDS. IN THEIR VIEW A DEA OFFICE  
HERE WOULD FACILITATE THE EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION THEY  
SEEK IN EUROPE AND ELSEWHERE.

-- THEY SUSPECT THAT GREECE IS A MORE IMPORTANT TRANS-  
SHIPMENT POINT FOR NARCOTICS HEADED TO WESTERN EUROPE  
AND THE U.S. THAN AVAILABLE EVIDENCE WOULD SUGGEST, ALTHOUGH  
THEY ADMIT THEY HAVE NO SOLID EVIDENCE TO SUPPORT THIS BELIEF,  
THEY FEEL THAT A FULL TIME DEA OFFICE HERE WOULD BE ABLE TO  
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CONFIRM THEIR SUSPICIONS.

3. (FYI: IN ADDITION, SOME OF THEIR OTHER COMMENTS IMPLY A HOPE ON THEIR PART THAT A DEA OFFICE HERE WOULD ENABLE THEM TO HAVE ACCESS TO INCREASED FUNDING FOR THEIR OWN NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT EFFORTS IN GREECE. THEY SEEM TO FEEL THAT DEA MIGHT PROVIDE THEM WITH SOME FUNDS AND PERHAPS THAT ITS PRESENCE HERE WOULD CAUSE THE GREEK GOVERNMENT TO INCREASE THE AMOUNT OF MONEY ALLOCATED TO NARCOTICS ENFORCEMENT. THIS LATTER JUDGMENT AND OUR INTERPRETATION OF RAPTIS AND ANTONIOU'S MOTIVES SHOULD UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES BE DISCUSSED OR OTHERWISE SHARED WITH THEM DURING THEIR STAY IN ROME. END FYI.)

4. IN OUR CONVERSATIONS WITH RAPTIS AND ANTONIOU WE HAVE SUGGESTED THAT ON THE BASIS OF THE INFORMATION WE HAVE IN ATHENS, THE AMOUNT OF TRAFFICKING THROUGH GREECE WOULD NOT JUSTIFY A DEA OFFICE HERE. WE HAVE ALSO POINTED OUT THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEA OFFICE IN GREECE WOULD IN ANY CASE REQUIRE A POLITICAL DECISION BY THE GOVERNMENT OF GREECE AND COULD NOT BE EFFECTED BY A USG DECISION IN COOPERATION ONLY WITH GREEK POLICE AUTHORITIES.

5. UNLESS TRAFFICKING PATTERNS HAVE CHANGED FUNDAMENTALLY SO THAT GREECE IS NOW A MAJOR ROUTE TO WESTERN EUROPE AND THE U.S. AND, AS A RESULT, OF SIGNIFICANT CONCERN TO THE USG (OF WHICH WE ARE UNAWARE), WE HOPE THAT, SHOULD THE QUESTION ARISE, DEA OFFICIALS AT THE ROME CONFERENCE WILL BE ABLE TO DISSUADE THE GREEK REPRESENTATIVES FROM THEIR BELIEF IN THE DESIRABILITY OF SEEING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A DEA PRESENCE IN ATHENS. AS AN ALTERNATIVE, IF THE QUESTION IS RAISED, WE SUGGEST THAT THE DEA REPRESENTATIVE IN ROME MAKE CLEAR TO THEM THAT HE AND MEMBERS OF HS OFFICE ARE AVAILABLE TO TRAVEL TO ATHENS AS NEEDED, AND WILL, IF THE GOG AUTHORITIES DESIRE, TRAVEL TO ATHENS SOON FOR CONSULTATIONS. WHILE SUCH A VISIT, AND PROMISE OF FURTHER ONES, WOULD FALL CONSIDERABLY SHORT OF WHAT THESE TWO GREEK POLICY OFFICIALS NOW WANT, IT PROBABLY WOULD HELP THEM TO FEEL THAT THE USG AND DEA ARE TAKING THEIR CONCERNS SERIOUSLY, A PERCEPTION THAT CAN ONLY SUSTAIN THE ALREADY FINE WORKING RELATIONSHIP WE HAVE WITH THESE MEN.

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